The Journey of Urnaa: A Tale of Perseverance and Humility

Urnaa’s story is one of incredible resilience, humility, and quiet strength, woven together by years of hardship, sacrifice, and perseverance. From a young woman struggling with personal difficulties to becoming a member of the International Teaching Center (ITC), her journey has been shaped by challenges that many might find insurmountable. Yet, through it all, she has remained steadfast in her devotion to her faith, her family, and her mission to serve humanity.

Born in Mongolia, Urnaa’s life began under difficult circumstances. As a young woman, she married someone she believed would be her partner through thick and thin. However, her husband turned out to be irresponsible, leaving her to face the overwhelming responsibility of raising a child while still in her youth. She was only 17 years old when she found herself breastfeeding a baby in the harsh conditions of the early 1990s, a time of economic turmoil in Russia. Struggling with hunger, she had to return to Mongolia with her mother, leaving behind her dreams of education and a promising future. During this painful period, Urnaa weighed just 45 kg and was on the verge of collapse. She credits her survival to the unwavering support of her mother, who saved her life during those years of hardship.

The economic hardship did not end there. Urnaa faced constant financial struggles, as she was responsible not only for her son but also for supporting her mother, brother, and his family. Despite her best efforts, she was always in debt, burdened by the costs of raising a child and the pressures of supporting her extended family. In addition to the financial strain, Urnaa worked tirelessly in the field of community development, often working in the vast, difficult terrain of Asiatic Russia. The constant demands of her work, coupled with the limited resources, drained both her physical and emotional energy.

Her delicate and introverted nature made her vulnerable in a world dominated by assertive, strong personalities. Urnaa often struggled to work with individuals who had a more forceful approach to leadership, like her colleague Tzatza, who favored a more direct and dominant style. Despite these difficulties, Urnaa never complained. Instead, she carried on, quietly persevering through the challenges, her gentle soul unbroken by the harshness of her environment.

As she continued to navigate these challenges, Urnaa’s inner strength remained her anchor. Yet, the toll of years of sacrifice and hardship began to take its toll on her health. Diagnosed with hepatitis C, Urnaa feared for her life, especially when she heard that the disease could lead to “silent death,” a condition where the liver gradually fails without showing any clear symptoms. Though further tests revealed the diagnosis to be incorrect, Urnaa continued to battle her health, always trying to keep up with the relentless pace of her work.

Even in the face of such struggles, Urnaa never lost her deep sense of responsibility to her community. She had worked with the United Nations as a consultant in Africa, earning significant amounts of money that could have improved her financial situation. However, she was advised to invest these earnings into the development of the Mongolian Development Community (MDC) instead. Despite the sacrifices, she continued her work with MDC, always placing the needs of the community above her own. She did so with unwavering dedication, convinced that her efforts would ultimately contribute to the betterment of others.

The emotional weight of her journey was often too much to bear alone. There were moments when Urnaa felt completely overwhelmed and isolated, unsure of where to turn. Once, while in Novosibirsk, she called a close friend in distress, her voice weak and fragile as she sought solace in their words. In that moment, it became clear that despite her outward strength, she too needed support and encouragement. The realization that someone so strong could feel so vulnerable was a testament to her humanity and the deep emotional burdens she carried.

Her selflessness and quiet wisdom did not go unnoticed. Despite the struggles she faced, Urnaa’s commitment to service and her humble nature made her a deeply respected member of her community. When the opportunity arose for her to take on a more significant role in the Baha’i community, she was chosen to be part of the International Teaching Center (ITC). This was a monumental achievement in her life, one that reflected the fruits of her years of dedication and service.

Urnaa's appointment to the ITC was not just the result of her professional capabilities, but also the reflection of her personal qualities—her gentleness, her humility, and her unwavering devotion to the Baha'i Faith. She had never sought recognition for her work, nor did she expect rewards for her sacrifices. Instead, she remained focused on her mission to serve others, often putting her own needs aside

for the sake of the greater good.

Her story is a powerful reminder that true strength is not always loud or forceful; it is often found in quiet perseverance, in the ability to keep going even when the road is difficult. Urnaa’s journey is one of incredible courage and selflessness. Her unwavering commitment to her faith, her family, and her community has made her an extraordinary woman, deserving of all the recognition she has received.

In the end, Urnaa’s story is a testament to the power of resilience, the importance of humility, and the quiet strength that can emerge from even the harshest of circumstances. Despite the hardships she faced, she never gave up on her mission to serve others, and it is this unwavering devotion that has led her to become a respected member of the International Teaching Center. Through her journey, she has shown that even in the most difficult of circumstances, one can still find a way to make a meaningful difference in the world.